

Salmon Creek Watershed

Description: Located in central Clark County, this watershed drains an 89 square mile area and encompasses 12 subwatersheds: Cougar, Curtin, Mill, Morgan, Woodin (Weaver), and Rock creeks, and five subwatersheds along the main Salmon Creek channel. There are many smaller creeks throughout the watershed. Salmon Creek drains westward into Lake River.

Land Cover:

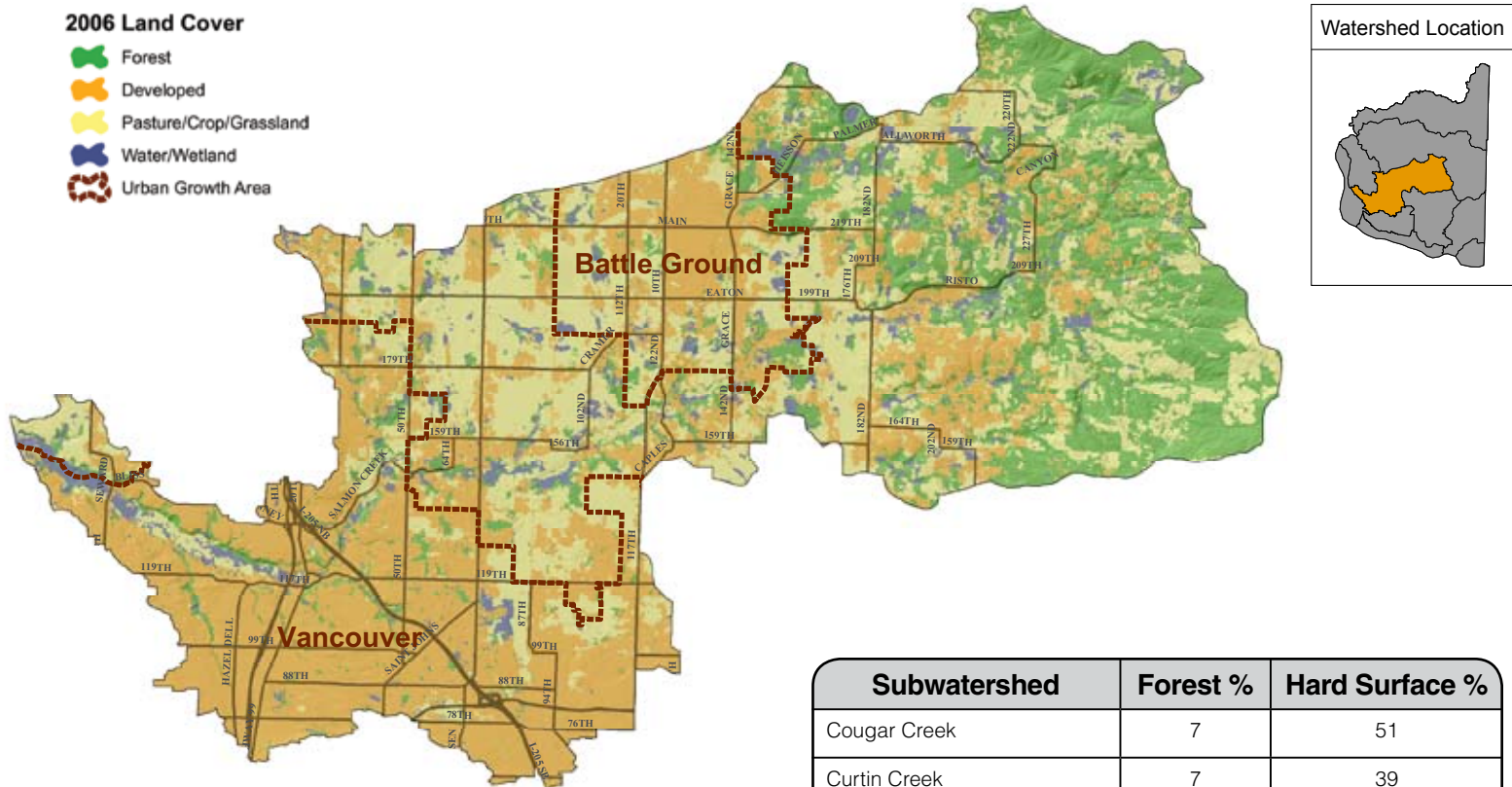
- *Forest:* Largely cleared for development and agriculture; some intact forest present in the uppermost watershed
- *Development:* Rapidly developing with growth concentrated in the Vancouver and Battle Ground Urban Growth Areas Includes some of the most heavily developed areas in Clark County
- *Agriculture:* Historical agriculture rapidly converting to development
- *Water:* Battle Ground Lake, Klineline Pond; historical wetlands largely drained

Likely Condition:

- The amount of intact forest suggests poor stream conditions are likely, except fair to good in the uppermost watershed
- The amount of hard surface suggests poor stream conditions are likely, except fair in the uppermost watershed
- Significant additional development and redevelopment are expected

Resources to Protect:

- The Salmon Creek Greenway and parks
- Open space
- Remaining intact forest
- Salmon and steelhead



Suggested Stream Health Strategies:

- Increase infiltration and retention of stormwater runoff
- Restore stream channels and side channels in middle and upper watershed
- Implement development regulations to minimize impacts
- Minimize the impact of surface and groundwater withdrawals
- Promote good septic system maintenance practices
- Work with property owners to eliminate pollution sources

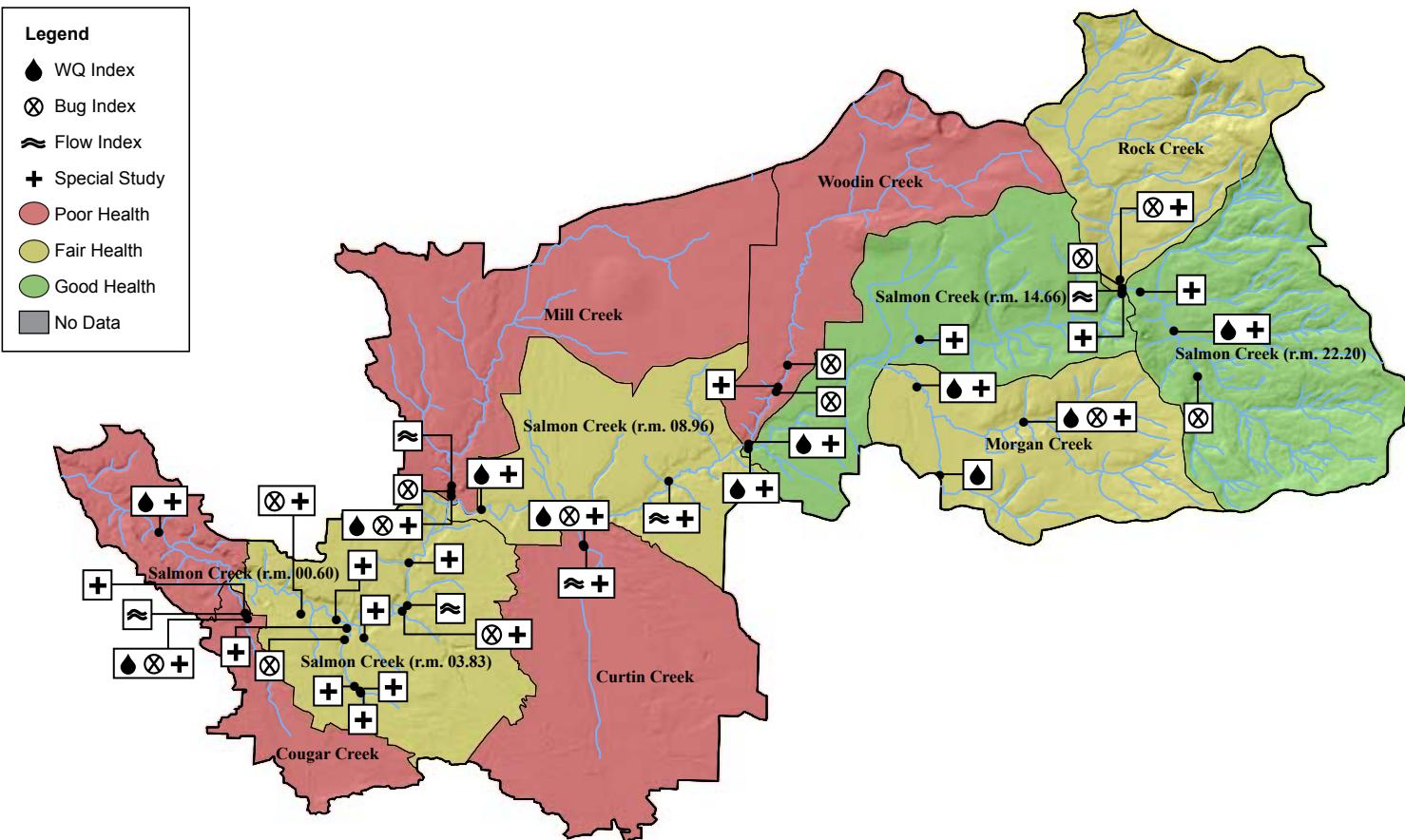
Subwatershed	Forest %	Hard Surface %
Cougar Creek	7	51
Curtin Creek	7	39
Mill Creek	16	23
Morgan Creek	34	18
Rock Creek	60	10
Salmon Creek (r.m. 00.60)	16	31
Salmon Creek (r.m. 03.83)	13	41
Salmon Creek (r.m. 08.96)	15	24
Salmon Creek (r.m. 14.66)	34	17
Salmon Creek (r.m. 22.20)	68	10
Woodin Creek	32	24

This table shows the amount of land that is covered by forest and by hard surfaces in each subwatershed. The map on the facing page provides the subwatershed boundaries for reference.

Salmon Creek Watershed: Stream Health

Salmon Creek Stream Health Score Card

Subwatershed	Water Quality	Biological Health	Flow	Subwatershed Rating
Mill Creek	●	●	●	●
Cougar Creek	●	●	●	●
Salmon Creek (r.m. 03.83)	--	●	●	●
Salmon Creek (r.m. 08.96)	●	--	●	●
Salmon Creek (r.m. 14.66)	●	--	●	●
Curtin Creek	●	●	●	●
Woodin Creek	●	●	--	●
Rock Creek	--	●	--	●
Morgan Creek	●	●	--	●
Salmon Creek (r.m. 22.20)	●	●	●	●
Salmon Creek (r.m. 00.60)	●	--	--	●
Indicator Rating	●	●	●	
Overall Watershed Rating:				Fair ●



Score Summary:

- Ratings range from poor to good
- Poor water quality and biological health ratings are common in areas where development is most prevalent
- This watershed includes some of the most healthy, and least healthy, streams in Clark County
- Local jurisdictions are implementing a state Water Cleanup Plan for bacteria, turbidity, and temperature

Special Study: Salmon Creek Focused Fecal Coliform and Turbidity

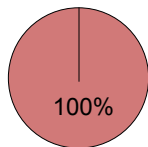
Study Description: 8 sites within the lower Salmon Creek Watershed; October 2007 – September 2008

Report link: www.clark.wa.gov/waterresources/documents

Why is this important? The presence of fecal coliform bacteria indicates the stream has been contaminated with human or animal waste. Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness in water.

Bacteria Results

- No site met the state water quality criteria for bacteria levels.
- Dry season, wet weather had the highest bacteria levels.
- Bacteria levels increased from upstream to downstream.



Turbidity Results

- Thirty-five percent of turbidity measurements were higher than background levels; the higher the turbidity, the more cloudy the water.

